

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05672 271331Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 271202Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5855

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 5672

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, TW

SUBJECT: FORMER PRESIDENT THIEU'S ARRIVAL IN TAIPEI

REF: STATE 097656

1. WHATEVER ANSWER IS MADE TO PRESS CANNOT HELP BUT SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE OUR CONTINUING EVACUATION PROCESS HERE. I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY A "NO COMMENT" CANNOT BE MADE IN ANSWER TO PRESS INQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT AS LONG AS THE AIRLIFT CONTINUES. SO I SUGGEST WE LET IT GO AT THAT UNTIL THE AIRLIFT CEASES. THEN I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH WE TELL. THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW OPERATIONS WHICH WAS COMPLETELY LEGAL AND ABOUT WHICH NO CRITICISM CAN ACCURE TO THE U.S.

2. I DO NOT BELIEVE THIEU AND HIS PARTY HAVE ANY INTENTION OF COMING TO THE UNITED STATES, AT LEAST NOT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE PAROLE DOCUMENTS WERE PROPERLY VERIFIED AS COMING WITHIN THE "HIGH RISK" CATEGORY PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED. THEY WERE ISSUED ONLY IN CASE THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTIES IN TAIWAN. THEY WERE GIVEN TO AIRCRAFT COMMANDER TO BE HANDED PERSONALLY TO THE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICER AT LANDING IN TAIWAN. THEREFORE, I PRESUME THEY NOW IN UNGER'S CUSTODY.

3. IF DEPARTMENT REALLY NEEDS TO KNOW MORE AT THIS STAGE, SUGGEST CONSULTATIONS WITH SCOWCROFT.

MARTIN

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NNN

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